

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims as filed with the claims set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A [symmetric] clamp [structure] comprising:
a first arm having a distal end defining a first threaded through bore;
a second arm having a distal end defining a second threaded through bore, wherein the first threaded through bore and the second threaded through bore are essentially coaxial; and
a screw comprising a head and a shank, the head being at one end of the shank and the shank having a threaded portion at a second end opposite the first end and a clearance portion between the threaded portion and the head, the screw being configured so that with a threaded engagement between the threaded portion of the shank and [one] either of the first [and second] threaded through bore[s] of the first arm or the second threaded through bore of the second arm and the head abutting [one] the other of the first and second arms opposite the threaded engagement, the clearance portion resides within the other of the first and second threaded through bores.

2. (Original) The symmetric clamp structure of claim 1 wherein the clearance portion has an outer diameter sized to clear the first and second threaded bores and a length at least equal to the axial length of each threaded bore.

3. (Original) The symmetric clamp structure of claim 1 wherein a length of the clearance portion exceeds an axial length of each threaded bore.

4. (Original) The symmetric clamp structure of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second arms have a proximal end attached to a bicycle component.

5. (Original) The symmetric clamp structure of claim 4 wherein the bicycle component is a brake lever.

6. (Currently amended) A method of attaching a clamp to a frame comprising:
providing a frame;

providing a symmetric clamp structure comprising a first arm having a distal end defining a first threaded bore, a second arm having a distal end defining a second threaded bore wherein the first threaded bore and the second threaded bore are essentially coaxial and have essentially the same size and pitch threading;

providing a screw comprising a head and a shank, the head being at one end of the shank and a threaded portion being at a second end of the shank opposite the first end, the threaded portion being sized to threadably engage both the first and second threaded bores, the shank further comprising a clearance portion between the threaded portion and the head;

engaging the screw with the clamp by screwing the threaded portion into a threaded engagement with [one] either of the first and second bores such that the head abuts the arm opposite the threaded engagement and the clearance portion clears the threads of the threaded bore opposite the threaded engagement;

placing the clamp over the frame so that the frame is received between the first and second arms of the clamp; and

tightening the screw thereby driving the distal ends of the first and second arms toward each other, thereby attaching the clamp to the frame.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the frame is a tubular bicycle frame.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the frame is a tubular bicycle handlebar.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising removing the screw from threaded engagement with [one] either of the first and second arms and engaging and tightening the screw in an opposite orientation such that the screw is threadably engaged with the other arm.

10. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a symmetrical clamp structure comprising:

providing a clamp body having a first arm having a distal end and a second arm having a distal end with the distal end of the first arm and the distal end of the second arm being substantially adjacent to each other and defining a gap between the arms;

forming co-axial cylindrical threaded bores through the distal ends of the first and second arms, each threaded bore having a length less than a select length;

providing a screw having a head at one end and a threaded shank extending from the head to an opposite end with the threaded shank being sized to threadably engage the threaded bores through the distal ends of the first and second arms;

forming a clearance portion on the shank of the select length between the head and the opposite end of the shank such that the clearance portion extends toward but not to the opposite end, leaving a portion of the shank opposite the head threaded;

assembling the clamp by threadably engaging the screw with [one] either of the first and second threaded bores such that the head abuts the arm opposite the threaded engagement and the clearance portion clears the threads of the threaded bore opposite the threaded engagement.

11. (Currently amended) A bicycle brake lever comprising:

a housing;

a lever pivotably attached to the housing;

a clamp attached to the housing, the clamp comprising:

first and second arms configured to receive a bicycle handlebar axially therebetween, each of the first and second arms having a distal end, the distal ends having a space therebetween, the first arm further having a first threaded through bore at its distal end and the second arm further having a second threaded through bore at its distal end, the first and second threaded through bores being essentially coaxial; and

a screw comprising a head and a shank, the head being at one end of the shank and the shank having a threaded portion at a second end opposite the first end and a clearance portion between the threaded portion and the head, the screw being configured so that with a threaded engagement between the threaded portion of the shank and [one] either of the first [and second] threaded through bore[s] of the first arm or the second threaded through bore of the second arm

and the head abutting [one] the other of the first or second arms opposite the threaded engagement, the clearance portion resides within the other of the first and second threaded through bores, such that there is no threaded engagement between the threaded portion of the shank and the other of the first and second threaded through bores.

12. (Original) The bicycle brake lever of claim 11 wherein the clearance portion has an outer diameter sized to clear the first and second threaded bores and a length at least equal to the axial length of each threaded bore.

13. (Original) The bicycle brake lever of claim 11 wherein a length of the clearance portion exceeds an axial length of each threaded bore.

14. (New) The symmetric clamp structure of claim 1 further comprising the clearance portion being non-threaded.

15. (New) The method of claim 6 further comprising the clearance portion being non-threaded.

16. (New) The method of claim 10 further comprising the clearance portion being non-threaded.

17. (New) The bicycle brake of claim 11 further comprising the clearance portion being non-threaded.